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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Eyewitness News at 6:00

STATION WDVM TV

DATE July 5, 1984

6:00 PM

CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Oil Spill at CIA

PHYLLIS ARMSTRONG: Eyewitness News has learned that another oil spill occurred at the Central Intelligence Agency today fouling a Virginia stream. It is the third spill since the end of May.

Jane Van Ryan has more.

JANE VAN RYAN: There were six beads of oil floating on the surface of the creek that flows from the CIA compound to the Potomac today, the same creek that has been covered with number six fuel oil three times in the last five weeks. The first spill at the CIA heating plant occurred May 30th, sending a thick blanket of oil into the Potomac. Today a cleanup crew was able to contain the oil before it reached the river.

Does it look like it's still coming downstream -- there's still more oil coming into the stream?

MAN: No. There's no oil coming into the stream. It's already come in, and where it came in at it's clear. So it's stopped coming in as far as we can tell.

VAN RYAN: The General Services Administration operates the CIA's heating plant and is taking the heat for the problem. So far, a total of 3500 gallons of oil has either been leaked or accidentally poured into the creek at a cleanup cost of roughly \$100,000. The cost to the environment is harder to assess.

SECOND MAN: As I was walking down the creek I did notice oiled up worms and other invertebrates that are common to streams in this area. And that's just common damage from a situation like this.

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Approved For Release 2008/10/22 : CIA-RDP88-01070R000201280002-5

2

VAN RYAN: The GSA blamed today's spill on a leaky pipe buried in a trench. A spokesman said the pipe was replaced along with several other pipes in hopes the problem wouldn't recur. But that explanation did not satisfy environmental watchdogs.

The Virginia Water Control Board says that although the GSA has been cooperating with the cleanup, it is now known whether enough has been done to prevent spills. An investigation involving Virginia, Maryland, the EPA and the Coast Guard was launched today.

Jane Van Ryan, Eyewitness News.